

REMARKS

Claims remaining in the present application are Claims 1-20. Claims 1, 9, and 16 have been amended. The specification has been amended. No new matter has been added as a result.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to for reasons set forth in form PTO-948 attached to the Office Action. Formal drawings have been filed herewith. No new matter has been added as a result.

SPECIFICATION

The instant specification has been amended to include a reference to related applications. No new matter has been added as a result.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-6 and 8-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Greidinger et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,449,761 (hereinafter, Greidinger). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-6 and 8-19 are patentable over Greidinger.

Amended Independent Claim 1 recites:

A method of designing a circuit for a device, said method comprising:

a) selecting a first module of a plurality of modules, said modules representing pre-determined functions operable to be implemented in resources in said device; and

b) placing said first module in a valid position in a graphical user interface, wherein said resources are represented in said graphical user interface and wherein said valid position depends upon the type of module being placed and characteristics of said resources, wherein said valid position overlays a portion of said resources represented in said graphical user interface.

Claim 1 recites that the module is placed in a valid position in a graphical user interface, *wherein said valid position overlays a portion of said resources represented in said graphical user interface*. Applicants respectfully assert that Greidinger fails to teach or suggest these claimed limitations.

Greidinger may teach a graphical user interface (GUI) in which an initial and a final solution are depicted graphically (e.g., Fig. 3). The layout comprises various cells/subcells within a layout boundary. Greidinger teaches a process for optimizing the final solution, which results in a design that may use cells with different shapes, placements, or device characteristics. For example, alternative shapes are available for the cells. Greidinger also teaches the notion of substituting a cell having different device features than another cell (col. 6, lines 3-36). However, the various

cells/subcells are not overlaid onto a portion of resources represented in a graphical user interface, as claimed. Thus, Greidinger fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 1.

Claims 2-6 and 8 depend from Claim 1, which is believed to be allowable for the foregoing reasons. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-6 are not anticipated by Greidinger. Allowance of Claims 2-6 and 8 is earnestly solicited.

Amended Independent Claims 9 and 16 recite similar limitations as Claim 1. For the reasons discussed in the response to Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 9 and 16 are patentable over Greidinger.

Claims 9-15 and 17-19 depend from Claims 9 and 16, which are believed to be allowable for the foregoing reasons. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 9-15 and 17-19 are patentable over Greidinger.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 7 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greidinger in view of Bjorksten et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,930,148 (hereinafter, Bjorksten). The rejection is respectfully traversed for

the following reasons. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 7 and 20 are not rendered obvious by Greidinger in view of Bjorksten.

Claim 7 depends from Claim 1, thus incorporating limitations discussed in the response to Claim 1. For reasons discussed in the response to Claim 1, Greidinger fails to teach or suggest the limitations, "wherein said valid position overlays a portion of said resources represented in said graphical user interface. Bjorksten fails to remedy this deficiency in that *the combination* fails to teach these limitations. Therefore, neither Greidinger nor Bjorksten, alone or in combination, teach or suggest limitations of Claim 7.

Claim 20 depends from Claim 16. The rationale from the response to Claim 7 applies with equal weight to Claim 20. Therefore, neither Greidinger nor Bjorksten, alone or in combination, teach or suggest limitations of Claim 20.

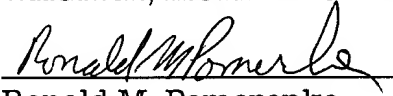
CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant response, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Based on the arguments and amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-20 overcome the rejections and objections of record and, therefore, allowance of Claims 1-20 is earnestly solicited.

Dated: 10/12, 2004

Respectfully submitted,
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